



# U P D A T E

## St. Lucie County

**April 15, 2008**

**A Monthly Update  
of Current Events  
and Happenings  
within St. Lucie  
County**

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This update is published monthly by the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners' Public Information Office. Direct inquiries to Ja' Net Pentz, Executive Assistant St. Lucie County 2300 Virginia Avenue Fort Pierce, FL 34982 772.462.1453 pentzj@co.st-lucie.fl.us

### **Board of County Commissioners Special Meetings & Workshops Scheduled**

- The Board of County Commissioners will hold the April Informal Monthly Meeting on Tuesday, April 22, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. in Conference Room #3.
- The Board of County Commissioners will hold a Joint Meeting with the TCERDA on Friday, April 25, 2008, 1:30 p.m. in Room 219 at the University of Florida Building located at 2199 South Rock Road in Fort Pierce.
- The Board of County Commissioners will hold a Joint Meeting with the City of Fort Pierce on budget issues on Tuesday, May 13, 2008 at 2 p.m. in the County Commission Chambers.

### **St. Lucie County Extends Free Spay/Neuter Program**

St. Lucie County, in cooperation with the Humane Society and local veterinarians, has extended its free spaying and neutering for dogs and cats residing in the unincorporated areas of the county through April. More than 5,000 residents in the unincorporated areas of St. Lucie County have registered their pets with St. Lucie County's Animal Control Division, creating a funding mechanism to offer free spaying and neutering. Throughout February and March, free spaying and neutering was offered to more than 200 animals as a result of this program. To qualify for free spaying and neutering, pet owners must fill out an application which is available at the Humane Society, 100 Savannah Road, Fort Pierce, local veterinarian offices or online at [www.stlucieco.gov/eoc/pdfCounty\\_Spay\\_307.pdf](http://www.stlucieco.gov/eoc/pdfCounty_Spay_307.pdf). This free service is only available to those residents who can show proof of residency within the unincorporated areas of St. Lucie County (those homes outside the city limits of Fort Pierce, Port St. Lucie or St. Lucie Village). If you have not registered your pet prior to the spaying or neutering, you will be required to do so following the procedure. Applications for the free spaying/neutering program will be coordinated by the St. Lucie County Animal Control Division with participating veterinarians and the Humane Society. On Oct. 1, St. Lucie County instituted a new ordinance requiring dog and cat owners to pay a registration fee for their animals. The cost is \$10 annually or a one-time fee of \$25 for the life of the pet for animals that have been spayed or neutered. The cost for unaltered animals is \$75 per animal. There are discounts for registering additional pets that have been spayed or neutered. Breeders are required to pay an annual \$100 registration fee. Those that may have registered their animals as being spayed and neutered in other counties still need to register their pets in St. Lucie County. In addition to providing funding for low-cost spaying and neutering, the program creates a license for pets that may be lost or stolen, so that they can be traced back to their owner. St. Lucie County's Animal Control Division has begun enforcing the new registration ordinance. Dog and cat owners who are cited have five days to register their pet. Those who do not register their animals could face a fine up to \$100 for the first offense, \$200 for the second offense and mandatory court for the third offense. For more information about St. Lucie County's new Pet Registration Ordinance or the free spaying/neutering program, call St. Lucie County Animal Control at (772) 461-6177 or the Humane Society of St. Lucie County at (772) 461-0687.

### **Library Closings for Renovations**

The Morningside Branch Library will be temporarily closed for renovations April 16-18, as St. Lucie County's Central Service staff constructs a new circulation desk inside the library. The book return box outside the library will remain open during the closure. The Morningside Branch of the St. Lucie County Library System is located at 2410 Morningside Blvd., Port St. Lucie. For more information call (772) 337-5632.

### **Lakewood Park Pool Reopens for the Season**

The Lakewood Park Regional Park Pool is reopened for the season. The 117,000-gallon, zero-depth entry pool is open Mondays and Wednesdays from 11 a.m. – 7 p.m. for open swim; Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 8 – 10 a.m. for adult swim and from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. for open swim; and Saturdays and Sundays from noon – 4 p.m. for open swim. Admission to the pool is \$1 a day for those 55 and older, \$2 a day for county residents and \$3 a day for non-county residents. Children under 2 are free. Monthly and quarterly passes are available. The pool and splash area are located within the 150-acre Lakewood Park Regional Park at 5990 Emerson Ave. in northern St. Lucie County. For more information about the pool, party rentals and other swimming programs call the St. Lucie County Parks and Recreation Aquatic staff at (772) 462-3772.

### **St. Lucie County Adds Thousands of Native Trees to Community**

It may be looking a little greener in St. Lucie County these days. That's because residents here have adopted more than 4,000 native trees through the Environmental Resources Department's Adopt-a-Tree Program and planted them in yards throughout the county. This community-wide program was made possible in part through a \$175,000 grant from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS). Following the 2004 hurricanes, St. Lucie County lost thousands of trees, severely diminishing the community tree canopy. In an effort to restore the tree canopy, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services awarded several grants under the "2005 Emergency Hurricane Supplemental Urban and Community Forestry Grant Program" to St. Lucie County. St. Lucie County's "urban forest" contributes to the public well-being by providing numerous economic and social benefits. In this warm, sub-tropical climate, tree shade means lower utility bills for both commercial and residential buildings. Trees can reduce localized temperatures, clean impurities, absorb carbon dioxide, stabilize soil, and provide wildlife habitat and corridors. In January 2005, the county's Environmental Resources Department (ERD) launched its "Adopt-A-Tree" program. Prior to receiving the FDACS grant, ERD had given away more than 1,000 native trees to residents of St. Lucie County. Many of these trees were acquired through the county's tree mitigation program, which requires developments to mitigate for destruction of native vegetation. In addition, through volunteer efforts, many plants and trees are rescued from property slated for development and brought to the county's nursery before being replanted on public lands or adopted by citizens.

### **Earth Day**

Join in the Oxbow Eco-Center's 8th Annual Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 19 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. The event is free, and packed with fun for the whole family. This year's festival focuses on what "Living Green" is all about.

### **Upcoming Events at the Oxbow Eco-Center**

Guided hikes continue at the Oxbow every Saturday at 10 a.m. Join an Oxbow naturalist as they lead visitors along a series of trails, discussing the plants and wildlife that live in the different habitats along the North Fork of the St. Lucie River.

Joseph E. Smith, District 1 • Doug Coward, District 2 • Paula A. Lewis, District 3  
Charles Grande, District 4 • Chris Craft, District 5

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